

APPLICATION
FOR
UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

TITLE: DOCUMENT AUTHORIZING SYSTEM AND AUTHORIZING
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

APPLICANT: HIROSHI TAKIZAWA AND SACHIKO KAWANISHI

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL

Express Mail Label No. EV331002954US

July 17, 2003
Date of Deposit

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

DOCUMENT AUTHORIZING SYSTEM AND AUTHORIZING MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 This is a Continuation-in-Part application of U.S.
Patent Application No. 10/339,106, filed January 9,
2003, now abandoned, the entire contents of which are
incorporated herein by reference.

10 This application is based upon and claims the
benefit of priority from the prior Japanese Patent
Applications No. 2002-010397, filed January 18, 2002;
and No. 2002-340963, filed November 25, 2002, the
entire contents of both of which are incorporated
herein by reference.

15 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

20 The present invention relates to an authoring
technique, for example, of a disclosure document,
particularly to a document authoring system in which a
browser (the Internet browsing software) is used to
automatically author a document and the document can be
accessed as a web page, and an authoring management
program for the system.

2. Description of Related Art

25 In general, for example, to prepare financial data
related disclosure documents, or to prepare requested
documents for filing by public companies, the documents

have heretofore been prepared using word processor software, particularly "Word" by Microsoft Co., Ltd. Moreover, to prepare financial data related disclosure documents using Word, a template function disposed in
5 Word has been used to locally perform a preparation operation.

On the other hand, a technique of freely using the Internet to present the documents has been introduced. For example, "an electronic disclosure system
10 concerning disclosure documents such as securities reports based on the securities transaction law in Japan (hereinafter abbreviated as "EDINET")" has been introduced as of June 1, 2001. In EDINET like EDGAR system in United States, HTML format has been
15 determined as the file format of documents to be handled in order to change the related-art document filing by paper media to a mode of electronic document filing by the Internet.

Moreover, even a typical securities report is
20 obliged to be filed in HTML format (additionally, an essential condition is that the report can be displayed in a browser). Therefore, document filing has heretofore used a method comprising: first preparing a draft by word processor software; and converting the
25 data into HTML format in a final stage in which the draft is completed.

However, it has heretofore been impossible to

prepare or display the draft in the browser. The reason is as follows. It is first necessary to map data input from a client in a database on a server so that editing is possible in the browser. Additionally,
5 it has heretofore been possible to map the data input into the database from the browser, but it has been necessary to prepare fields for input beforehand. For example, when a registration button in a member registration web page is clicked, the data is disposed
10 in the database on the server owned by an Internet service provider.

However, in the above-described method of preparing the field for input beforehand, the data cannot be freely edited/laid out as in a word processor. This is
15 insufficient for preparing a financial data related disclosure document such as a securities report as a first object of the present invention.

In actuality, when it is requested to change the arrangement "document A/document B/image C/table D" in
20 a part of the securities report to the arrangement "document A/table D/image C/document B", it is indispensable to designate "where" to prepare "what" in order to freely edit/lay out the data as in a word processor. For details, "to insert the table
25 after this sentence" or "to insert the sentence before this table" is concretely designated. That is, a mechanism in which "this sentence", "this table", or

"this image" is designated in the browser is necessary. Furthermore, there has heretofore not been a mechanism to designate or select an object item of the corresponding document for the purpose of editing in the browser.

In general, when a Word template is used to prepare financial data related disclosure documents as described above, there is much laborious input work. Moreover, it has been impossible to check consistency of the financial related document with the Word template. For a financial data related disclosure document, in a securities report prepared based on the securities transaction law in Japan, filing in HTML format is accepted. However, in most of presently performed operation examples, there is no method other than that of preparing the document by word processor software and subsequently performing a batch conversion into HTML format.

In disadvantages of an input method by the word processor software as the related-art method, a final finish in HTML format cannot easily be confirmed, for example, in a visual manner, and it is not guaranteed that the data of the HTML format output by the batch conversion can appropriately be displayed in a web browser, or the converted data in HTML format does not have a simple structure of HTML format. In actual situations, there are many disadvantageous examples.

Furthermore, even for an error of an input operation in an input item requiring consistency, there has been no means for automatically finding the error.

5 As described above, in the related-art document preparation method, there is a necessity of performing conversion to a data file in HTML format, and it is impossible to confirm the displayed state of the finally filed document. Additionally, the filed document, such as a securities report, has a
10 considerably high technicality, and is additionally revised frequently under the disclosure rule. Therefore, it is very difficult to rapidly and correctly prepare the document. Moreover, since the data of filed documents such as securities reports has
15 high correlation, it takes much time to verify the consistency.

Moreover, a plurality of departments in a filing company, an accounting auditor of the filing company, and a large number of parties concerned, such as a
20 printing company, are involved in the preparation of the filed documents such as the securities reports. These parties concerned are not necessarily in the same workplace, and generally communicate with one another via facsimile or mail to proceed with the preparing/
25 proofreading/editing of the predetermined document. This work requires due attention.

As described above, in the related-art method,

display in HTML format as a final formal filing format cannot be confirmed. To confirm the display, data conversion processing has to be performed for each confirmation. On the other hand, it is not guaranteed
5 that the converted document can correctly be displayed in a browser (the Internet browsing software). Because of these disadvantages, usability is remarkably degraded.

Therefore, it can be said that "to prepare a
10 document required to be displayed in a browser by using a browser" is a most rational method as a solution of the disadvantages.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to provide a
15 document authoring system in which a browser is used to easily prepare a desired related disclosure document and the document can be accessed as a Web page, and an authoring management program for the system.

To solve the above-described disadvantages and
20 achieve the object, according to the present invention, the following means is taken in order to realize a filing document authoring system, for example, for EDINET using the Internet. That is, according to a first aspect of the present invention, there is
25 provided a document authoring system comprising: a server including an authoring management program to prepare a document including tables; and a client

terminal (i.e., a terminal device) connected to the server via a predetermined network. Moreover, the authoring management program comprises functions of: editing means for editing data in response to a request
5 from the client terminal; conversion means for converting data in XML format to data in HTML format; and publishing means for releasing the data in HTML format onto the network in an accessible format.

According to a second aspect of the present
10 invention, there is provided an authoring management program which is operated in a document authoring system comprising: a server; and a client terminal connected to the server via a predetermined network so as to prepare a document including tables, the program
15 comprising an order statement which allows a resource (computer) to execute: an editing step of editing data in response to a request from the client terminal; a first conversion step of converting data edited by the editing step into XML format; a second conversion step
20 of converting the XML format data converted by the first conversion step into HTML format data; and a publication step of releasing the HTML format data converted by the second conversion step onto the network in an accessible format and a displayable file
25 format.

Moreover, according to a third aspect of the present invention, there is provided a document

authoring system comprising: a server including an
authoring management program in which a predetermined
program is used to prepare a document including tables;
and a client terminal connected to the server via the
5 Internet in an accessible manner. Moreover, the
authoring management program can be constructed to
drive the program comprising: a data management
function portion which interprets output data as a
change command from the server, attaches individual
10 identification numbers to the data, specifies a part of
the document to be edited based on the identification
number, and updates the XML document to manage
information in the document authoring system in a one-
dimensional manner; an editing management function
15 portion which edits document data (XML) based on
predetermined information input from the client
terminal via the server; a data conversion function
portion (XSLT, CSS) which converts the data format for
use in the client terminal so as to match the data
20 format with the format of the document data; and a
script function portion which supplies an input support
function related with the document editing to the
client terminal.

According to the document authoring system
25 proposed/provided by the present invention, parties
concerned including a client use the file in a shared
mode via the Internet, and browse the related

disclosure documents such as a disclosure document for EDINET in HTML format, so that the client can prepare and edit the document as desired. Therefore, operation efficiency of the document preparation can be enhanced.

5 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 is a system constitution diagram showing the whole outline of a document authoring system according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is an explanatory view showing a major
10 function constitution related with the document authoring system and a flow of processing data by these functions;

FIGS. 3A, 3B are flowcharts showing a processing procedure to be performed based on the document
15 authoring system, and a constitution diagram of a data file system;

FIG. 4 is an explanatory view showing one example of a main menu screen displayed in a terminal device in the system (EDITS) according to the embodiment;

FIGS. 5A, 5B show changes of the display screen
20 concerning a certain company, following a main menu, FIG. 5A is an explanatory view showing a list of contents and start screen, and FIG. 5B is an explanatory view showing a screen in selecting
25 "transition of stock price" from the list of contents;

FIGS. 6A, 6B show an input mode time, FIG. 6A is an explanatory view showing a screen in an input mode,

and FIG. 6B is an explanatory view showing a sub window further displayed as a text editing dialog in the right of the screen;

FIGS. 7A, 7B shows a case in which a "format setting" mode is operated, FIG. 7A shows a screen layout displaying an image display symbol which can be clicked, and FIG. 7B shows a screen layout showing dialog for the "format setting";

FIG. 8 is a consistency check table as a result of consistency check concerning data from a filing document data database;

FIGS. 9A, 9B show examples (Table Example 1: display image) of a table in HTML format prepared by the system;

FIG. 10 shows an example (Table Example 2: image display symbol) of the table showing a part of the document prepared by the system;

FIGS. 11A, 11B show examples of the table in a case in which a row or column is inserted into the table example prepared by the system (Table Example 3: image display symbol);

FIGS. 12A, 12B are explanatory views showing one example of editing according to the embodiment in which four cells are combined;

FIGS. 13A, 13B are explanatory views showing another example of editing according to the embodiment in which eight cells are combined;

FIG. 14 is a system constitution diagram showing a constitution as Modification Example 1 in which the present invention is applied to preparation and editing of "newspaper, book, and magazine";

5 FIGS. 15A, 15B show changes of the screen in Modification Example 1, FIG. 15A shows a screen layout of a "view" mode of the system, and FIG. 15B shows a screen layout at a change time to an "input" mode;

 FIGS. 16A, 16B show display screens in
10 Modification Example 1, FIG. 16A shows a screen layout of the sub window as the text editing dialog, and FIG. 16B shows a screen layout including the image display system which can be clicked in a changed "addition/deletion" mode;

15 FIG. 17 is a system constitution diagram showing a constitution as Modification Example 2 in which the present invention is applied to the preparation and editing of a "business form block copy";

 FIGS. 18A, 18B show the changes of the screen in
20 Modification Example 2, FIG. 18A shows the screen layout of the "view" mode of the system, and FIG. 18B shows the screen layout at the change time to the "input" mode;

 FIGS. 19A, 19B show the display screens in
25 Modification Example 2, FIG. 19A shows a screen layout of the sub window as the text editing dialog, and FIG. 19B shows the screen layout including the image

display system which can be clicked in the changed
"addition/deletion" mode; and

FIG. 20 shows a matching list and a function block
diagram of a server.

5

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Embodiments of the present invention will be
described hereinafter with reference to the
accompanying drawings. As a concrete description, for
a document to be handled herein, for example, a
10 document for EDINET filing which a public company in
Japan is requested to prepare will be described as one
example. A document authoring system for using a
network, particularly the Internet to prepare the
document for filing, and an authoring management
15 program will be described.

At present, the Financial Service Agency in Japan
has actually announced preparation requirements of the
EDINET filing document as follows. That is, the
following document editing software can be used to
20 prepare an HTML format document:

I. a word processor which has an HTML output
function;

II. an HTML editor; and

III. a text editor.

25

Moreover, the conventional preparation of the
filing document for EDINET is performed in the above
method "I" as follows:

1. the word processor is used to prepare the document for EDINET filing; and

2. an HTML file preparation function disposed in the word processor is used to convert a file format
5 unique to the word processor into HTML file format.

In the operation based on this method, a client confirms appearance of the EDINET document on the word processor, and thereafter prepares filing data.

Additionally, the Financial Service Agency in
10 Japan defines the preparation of the HTML format document by the HTML editor or text editor as the above method "II", "III". However, in the present situation, an operation mode in which the document is prepared by these methods has not been seen.

15 Therefore, the document authoring system of the present invention satisfying the following function requirements is implemented:

- the related disclosure documents such as the document for EDINET filing is prepared and edited in
20 cooperation on the Internet;
- the XML data format on the server is updated by the HTML data format edited by the browser;
- preparation guidance is displayed in accordance with the document as an editing object; and
- 25 • since the data is held in XML format, it is possible to verify consistency among associated numeric value items.

That is, the document authoring system includes a function of displaying an associated ground provision or preparation example as guidance in accordance with a prepared position during document preparation or
5 editing, and is easy to use. Additionally, for major data, the system includes a function of automatically verifying whether or not the consistency is kept among numeric values.

A major constituting resource of the system is
10 constituted by a plurality of terminal devices (hereinafter referred to simply as "terminals") and a server connected to the Internet, a database, and various types of software or tools.

As an assumption of operation environments
15 described above, for the terminal device on a user side, only a browser which can make an output in HTML format and in which a script sent together with the document in HTML format from the server can operate is sufficient.

20 It is to be noted that to send the information to the user-side terminal from the server side, the data conversion function to HTML format from XML format is performed by XML conversion means (XSLT, CSS).

Conversely, when the client changes the document,
25 the data conversion into XML format from HTML format is performed.

The document authoring system of the present

invention is a system which can realize free editing or layout of sentences including tables or images as in a word processor in the browser.

5 The document authoring system will concretely be described hereinafter by means of embodiments and modification examples with reference to FIGS. 1 to 20.

FIG. 1 shows the outline of the whole document authoring system as one embodiment. This document authoring system is based on one assumption that the system can be operated for a plurality of users who have concluded a predetermined contract to participate as clients and to use a function provided by a certain service provider company, for example, via the Internet 10.

15 As the provided function, the user (hereinafter referred to as the "client") can prepare a desired document on the Web. On the other hand, the client includes a company which needs to present the document to predetermined destinations such as a government agency, a so-called "document filing company".

20 Therefore, as shown, for the service provider company which provides this function, a server 12 including a large number of database (not shown), and a terminal device 14 connected to the server also via LAN are constituted so that the Internet 10 can be connected. Moreover, for a company (i.e., the document filing company) obliged to present documents desired by

the client such as a "financial related disclosure document", terminal devices (hereinafter referred to also as "client terminals") 16, 18, 20 for exclusive use in administration and accounting divisions are
5 connected to the Internet 10.

It is to be noted that examples of the above-described financial data related disclosure document concretely include SEC filings like Form 10-K a securities report, brief announcement of the most
10 recent financial statement following the end of the fiscal year, business law calculation documents, shareholder's general meeting call-up notice, account settlement publication, tax declaration, semiannual report, brief announcement of semiannual financial
15 settlement of accounts, interim return form, brief announcement of quarterly settlement, securities notification, issuance registration form, securities notice, correction report, prospectus, incidental report, self stock certificate purchase situation
20 report, tender notification, tender report, large amount holder report, and report for registration application at an application time for going public.

The service provider company (hereinafter referred to as the "provider company") concludes a prior
25 contract to permit an access equivalent to that to the terminal device 14 from a plurality of client terminals 16, 18, 20 as document filing companies with respect to

the server 12 (i.e., a service provider company database) connected to the Internet 10.

5 A control program (authoring management program: described later in detail) as the "document authoring system" according to the present embodiment is constantly stored in the server 12, and is set to be constantly in an accessible state from the client terminals 16, 18, 20 via the Internet 10.

10 In the server 12, the following various types of databases (database) and software are prepared:

- ID provided to the document filing company (client), ID holding a password, and password database;
- processing software for the client (such as program for data input in the browser);
- 15 • document filing company (client) data (for details, database of the XML format);
- authoring management program (control program on a server side: object-oriented language);
- style definition data for HTML or XML (e.g.,
20 cascading style-sheets (CSS), extensible style-sheets language (XSL);
- conversion program for converting the XML format into the HTML format (e.g., XSLT (XSL transformation), and the like);
- 25 • update processing program (software for editing: object-oriented language);
- guidance data database corresponding to the XML

data (e.g., ground provision and preparation example data); and

- consistency table database concerning major numeric value data.

5 That is, the document authoring system of the present invention is constituted of the server 12, and the terminals 14, 16, 18, 20 which are connected to the server 12 via the Internet 10 and which have an output function, for example, of HTML format data in a
10 hardware manner.

FIG. 2 shows a major function constitution related with the document authoring system of the present invention, and a flow of processing data by these functions.

15 This document authoring system includes an "authoring management program" for controlling/managing the preparation of documents including tables (e.g., a financial related disclosure filing document) in a software manner.

20 For details, for the authoring management program included in the document authoring system, output data sent as a change or predetermined command from the terminal devices 14, 16, 18, 20 of the client or from the server 12 is interpreted. Moreover, the program
25 mainly includes: a data management function portion 12a which gives individual identification numbers to the output data, specifies a portion of the corresponding

document to be edited based on the identification number, and updates (including adding/deleting) and processes the document of the XML format included in the server 12 to one-dimensionally manage the information in the document authoring system; editing means (editing management function portion 12b of the authoring management program) for editing document data (XML format data) 12f in accordance with predetermined information sent via the server 12 based on a client's request input from these terminal devices 14, 16, 18, 20; conversion means (data conversion function portion 12c of the authoring management program (CSS, XSLT, XML parser, DOM)) for converting the XML format data edited by the editing means into the HTML format data (i.e., data format for use in the terminal devices 14, 16, 18, 20 on the client side); publication means (publication function portion (Web browser) of the authoring management program) for releasing the HTML format data onto the Internet 10 in an accessible format; and means for supporting the input of the client's terminal devices 14, 16, 18, 20 (script function portion 12d of the authoring management program).

Moreover, the data management function portion 12a is set as the program so as to collate and update the corresponding part in the document based on matching lists 12e prepared corresponding to the identification

number (described later in detail) concerning the editing object part of the document data designated by clicking/operating an image display symbol (described later in detail) which can be clicked/operated from the client terminal.

When the predetermined client terminal accesses the server 12 via the Internet 10 by a client's manual operation, the "authoring management program" is called from the document authoring system stationed in the server 12, and is set so as to execute the processing in a predetermined order.

Additionally, in the server 12, the document authoring system is managed with the data of the XML format.

Moreover, the data of the XML format is a simple text which does not have style definition. Therefore, for correct display on the user side via Web browser "not corresponding to XML" such as a usual browser for HTML, the data including the style definition is converted, and a source formed into the object is generated and sent by the function of the XML parser on which a document object model (DOM) is mounted.

Then, on the server 12 side, to transmit the data of this XML format to each client terminal, in consideration of the style definition by XSL, the text data of the XML format is controlled so as to be converted to the data of the HTML format by XSLT and

transmitted.

The operation and preparation of the system according to the embodiment will next be described in general. Upon concluding the contract with the
5 document filing company (client), the service provider company receives the document filed last year (data having the format of the filed document), performs predetermined correction for use in the input operation of this year, and stores the data (i.e., "filing
10 company data") in the XML file format determined by the service provider company.

Moreover, these clients are informed beforehand of an exclusive-use ID and password for logging into the server 12 of the service provider company.

15 Only the client who acquires the ID and password and is authenticated can access the server 12 via the Internet 10 from their exclusive-use terminal devices, that is, the client terminals 16, 18, 20.

Subsequently, for example, the client who has
20 accessed the server from the client terminal selects an arbitrary type of disclosure document, "securities report" in this case, from a menu screen displayed on the terminal. Then, the authoring management program of the document authoring system accepts the client's
25 request to execute the processing, and calls filing document data (securities report data in this case) prepared beforehand in XML format.

It is to be noted that the terminal device 14 for exclusive use in the service provider company may also have a specification similar to that of the client terminals 16, 18, 20, and can similarly access the server 12 via the Internet 10 and via LAN in the company for the usual operation.

When the above-described operational preparations are completed, the operation of the system is first possible.

Next, the operation of the document authoring system will be described in detail with respect to "EDITS" as a concrete embodiment of the document authoring system for EDINET filing. When power is supplied to the resource (hardware) of the system, the server 12 constituting this system starts the predetermined authoring management program to start executing a series of processing steps as shown in a flowchart of FIGS. 3A, 3B.

This authoring management program first authenticates the ID and password. Then, an initial screen (log-in screen) for urging the client to input the ID and password is displayed (Step 1).

The client manually inputs the peculiar ID and password given to the server 12 of the service provider company beforehand in a correct order in order to log in the server 12 of the service provider company from the exclusive-use client terminal 14, 16, 18, or 20 via

the Internet 10.

The system collates the input ID and password with registered contents of a predetermined database (database) for the ID and password. When a result of this collation is OK (access rights accepted), menu display information (described later in detail) for exclusive use in each client is displayed in the client terminals 14, 16, 18, 20 on the client side from the server 12, and "client processing software" can be used. That is, the exclusive-use software (described later in detail) for use in acceptance processing concerning menu and menu items is transferred (Step 2).

Transition of the screen will be described with reference to FIGS. 4 to 7B. First as the menu display information, a screen (EDITS main menu) shown in FIG. 4 is displayed in a terminal screen, a prompt is allowed to blink to prompt the client to select one filing document as a preparation object, and a selection operation is prompted (Step 3).

When the selection operation is completed, menu data selected by the client (in this case, data indicating the type of the filing document) is transferred, and contents list data (contents list generation information) of the corresponding filing company data (XML format data) is extracted based on judgment of the management program.

Additionally, since the extracted contents list

data has the XML format, the data cannot correctly be displayed/output in the browser present on the client side as such. Therefore, here XSLT (i.e., software which converts XSL as a style sheet description
5 language for XML) is used to convert the contents list data of the XML format into the HTML format. Thereafter, the contents list data converted into the HTML format, and client processing software are sent to any one of the client terminals 14, 16, 18, 20 on the
10 client side from the server 12. Moreover, the contents list data is displayed in a format shown in (start screen: FIG. 5A) (Step 4).

Subsequently, the system prompts the client to select/input the predetermined item from the displayed
15 contents list data (Step 5).

When the client's selection operation is completed, the authoring management program of the server 12 calls the filing document data (XML format) corresponding to the selected item, and the matching
20 list of HTML and XML data is prepared. Subsequently, the matching list is stored in the server 12 for the purpose of collation. On the other hand, the data converted into HTML format is sent out to any one of the client terminals 14, 16, 18, 20 on the client side
25 (Step 6).

It is to be noted that as necessary processing here, the matching list of the HTML format data to be

sent out with the XML format data as original data is prepared beforehand on the server 12. In this matching list, a correspondence between the table and image display symbol is described. Every editing, the
5 matching list is prepared in such a manner that both the client terminal and server can recognize the table. When the matching list is prepared in this manner, and when any one of the client terminals 14, 16, 18, 20 inputs/edits the HTML data in the next processing step,
10 the correspondence of parts of editing including addition or deletion is clarified in both the client terminal and server. Additionally, the updating of the XML data of database on the server side, which is held as a "master file" to be shared, can be judged and
15 performed.

Here, the selection operation by the client will be described in general. The "EDITS" according to the present embodiment has a first object to prepare, for example, the financial data related disclosure document
20 here. Moreover, there are four major modes including the following functions:

"view" mode: finish of the document by HTML is displayed and viewed;
"input" mode: data is input;
25 "format setting" mode: formats such as a font size and margin are changed; and
"addition/deletion" mode: the table or text is

added, copied, or deleted.

This EDITS has the following characteristics in order to solve the defects of the related art.

1. In EDITS, all the HTML data (sentence, table, image, and the like) displayed on the browser are selectable (clickable), and include individual identification numbers. The selectable mode differs with the data in some degree, but a relatively small image display symbol is used except the sentence. It is to be noted that the sentence includes hyperlink information as a clickable mode.
2. The user (client) who operates the terminal can access the data identified by the individual identification numbers through an operation of clicking the image display symbol easily seen by a human. That is, when the image display symbol displayed on the browser side is operated, specific data on the server can be operated.
3. When the recognizing of the specific data is possible, it is first possible to designate "to insert the table after this sentence" or "to insert the sentence before the table".
4. In EDITS, the data is stored in the server in the XML format. The reason is that the data is held in the XML format and it is then possible to create meaning of the data.

In response to a request from the client terminal,

the data of XML format is converted into the HTML
format and sent out from the server 12. The XSLT is
used to convert the XML into HTML. At this XSLT
conversion time, the individual identification numbers
5 are given to the clickable information (for details,
see clickable information for each type of data).

In actuality, for example, to input the desired
data, the client selects a frame from frames arranged
in a screen upper edge of FIG. 5B, and clicks the
10 "input" button on the right side of the "view" button
designated up to now. With this instruction of the
operation, for the screen, a rectangular input form is
displayed in a region (numeric value input field) in
which the numeric values can be input on the screen as
15 shown in FIG. 6A. Moreover, the numeric value data
input is prompted so that the numeric values can be
input in the input field.

Furthermore, for example, when the desired
sentence is to be described in a lower part of the
20 input field, and the desired position is double-
clicked, a sub window is further displayed as a text
editing dialog in the right of the screen as shown in
FIG. 6B, and the client is prompted to perform a data
input operation for text editing. Additionally, for a
25 region (character input field) in which characters can
be input, a variable-length region which can be
displayed on the screen is prepared, and the client is

prompted to perform a character data input operation
for text editing.

5 In this manner, for a sentence part of the filing
document, hyperlink is basically automatically set. In
an editing operation, a click/double click operation is
freely performed with a mouse as described above.
Thereby, the client displays the sub window beside the
sentence part being edited so that the input is
possible, and the editing is set such that various
10 documents can be edited.

Moreover, a case will generally be described in
which the format is changed with respect to the input
data. When the client wants to change the format, the
client clicks/operates the "format setting" button from
15 the frames arranged in the upper edge of FIG. 5A. By
this operation, for the screen, as in the format
setting mode time of FIG. 7A, various image display
symbols which can be clicked/operated are displayed in
corresponding predetermined positions. These image
20 display symbols are sorted by various determined colors
and shapes in accordance with the object data. For
example, the whole document is indicated by a slightly
large green symbol, a table is indicated in orange, a
column is indicated in yellow, and a cell is indicated
25 in gray.

When these image display symbols are clicked, the
dialog (dialog of the clicked cell in FIG. 7A) is

displayed in accordance with the object data as shown
in FIG. 7B. By the click operation of the dialog, the
client can transmit object data of the format change
and change contents (e.g., the change of the font or
5 the setting of rules) to the server 12.

Following Step 6, the data edited (input/changed)
herein is transferred to the server 12 in conformity to
HTTP protocol. Subsequently, after the authoring
management program collates the data with the matching
10 list prepared in Step 5, information on document
editing, indicating the data of the XML format to be
updated, can be obtained. Therefore, update processing
of the filing document data is executed based on the
information (Step 7).

15 Thereafter, after the updated XML data is
similarly converted into the HTML format as described
above, the data is sent out to any one of the client
terminals 14, 16, 18, 20, and document data content is
displayed as the edited document (Step 8).

20 Moreover, a series of processing steps may be
ended here as desired.

Subsequently, when the client selects/designates
"guide display" (from the main menu of EDITS (see
FIG. 4)), the information indicating the file being
25 edited is transmitted to the server 12 (Step 9).

The server 12 processes the information by the
authoring management program, extracts guidance

information concerning the file being edited from predetermined guide data database, and sends out the data to any one of client terminals 14, 16, 18, 20. Subsequently, the guide display is performed (Step 10).

5 Moreover, when the client selects/instructs "output of consistency check table" from the main menu of EDITS (see FIG. 8), the authoring management program extracts the predetermined data from the filing document data database with reference to consistency data prepared beforehand (Step 11), and the consistency check table is displayed as a result of consistency check as shown in FIG. 8 (Step 12).

10 In summary, the document in XML format stored in the server 12 is displayed from the client terminals 14, 16, 18, 20 through the browser disposed in each terminal, auxiliary operation of the script sent from the server 12 is obtained, and it is possible to designate a purpose of editing.

15 The editing purpose is designated through the individual identification numbers and image display symbols attached to the HTML data by the server 12. That is, the client terminal user clicks/operates the desired image display symbol to specify the data to which the individual identification number is attached.

20 The server 12 which has obtained the designation from the browser recognizes the individual identification number by the authoring management program, and

collates the data with the matching list prepared at a data sending time to specify a changed part. After specifying the changed part, the editing is executed by the function of the editing portion of the authoring management program.

With respect to the above-described execution result, the individual identification number is given (attached) anew, and the result is converted into the HTML format, and sent to the browser together with the script.

By the above-described series of flow, the client terminal user designates the data by the HTML format with the image display symbol without directly inputting the HTML data, so that the XML format data on the server 12 can be operated.

FIG. 20 shows a matching list and a function block diagram of a server.

As shown in FIG. 20, for a matching list 12e, identification information indicating a plurality of items on a web screen is associated and stored with display information of an XML format indicating a content to be displayed in the item corresponding to the identification information.

Moreover, a server computer includes a display information changing section 101, format conversion section 102, and transmission section 103.

The display information changing section 101

receives the identification information indicating an item constituting an edition object, which is transmitted from a client computer, and edit information indicating an edition content of the item constituting the edition object. Moreover, the section uses the received identification information as a key to acquire the display information of the XML format from the matching list 12e, and changes the acquired display information of the XML format so as to obtain the edition content indicated by the received edit information. Moreover, the section attaches new identification information to the display information of the changed XML format, and stores the changed display information of the XML format in the matching list 12e together with the newly attached identification information.

The format conversion section 102 converts the display information changed by the display information changing section 101 into the display information of the HTML format.

The transmission section 103 adds and transmits the display information converted by the format conversion section 102 and the corresponding identification information to a client together with a script (program), e.g., a Java script.

It is to be noted that the client transmits the identification information indicating the item

constituting the edition object of a document displayed on the web screen as designated by a user, and the information indicating the edition content of the item constituting the edition object to the server, when the user designates the item constituting the edition object of the document displayed on the web screen, and edition content. This operation is realized by the script transmitted from the server.

FIGS. 9A, 9B show examples (Table Example 1) of the table of the HTML format prepared by the document authoring system according to one embodiment of the present invention. Additionally, this is a display image in the client terminal.

Here, a case will generally be described in which necessary information of various documents are input as shown and an arbitrary document is prepared and then changed.

Table Example 1 shows "document concerning lease transaction", Table Example 1 further includes a table 11, and an acquisition value equivalent amount is described in an item 11a. This document is displayed using the HTML format on the browser by the document authoring system. Moreover, on the browser, the HTML format may also be used to arbitrarily include another table (not shown) in the table 11.

As described above, for the financial data related disclosure document, the table is edited in a "nested"

state as described above in many cases. In this case, a processing method of preparing and attaching a table part to be included in the table with the image has heretofore been conventional, and subtle control has
5 been difficult in the processing of a so-called "table in table" in "Word" of Microsoft Co., Ltd. On the other hand, in the present invention, the table is inserted into the table in the "nested state" substantially without any restriction (described later
10 in detail). Moreover, in EDINET electronic disclosure of the securities report as guided by the Financial Service Agency in Japan, graphic data is requested not to be used if possible. Therefore, the present invention is more preferably suitable for the
15 electronic disclosure, because the table in table can easily be processed.

Next, FIG. 10 shows an example of a part of a balance sheet. As shown in the drawing, for the document authoring system of the present invention, the
20 table can be prepared in a tree shape (hierarchical manner). This tree-shaped data structure corresponds to a data (node) structure in the XML format. To edit the data structure, a circle mark as the image display symbol (hereinafter referred to also as the "image")
25 in Table Example 2 is applied as a graphical user interface, and the client clicks/operates the symbol. That is, it is possible to insert a predetermined table

(standard table) or a table in which the number of rows/columns can freely be set before/after an insertion target selected by clicking the circular image.

5 For the standard table, a pattern is prepared in accordance with the edited document, and therefore only the document for appropriate use is displayed. The table to be inserted can be previewed in the browser. For example, in Table Example 1, a region represented
10 by an image 24 in the table includes buildings and structures, account receivable "2,500" as a previous-period numeral, and account receivable "2,800" as a current-period numeral. When the image 24 disposed in the left upper portion is clicked/operated with the
15 mouse (not shown), the client can perform movement, copying, or deletion concerning the above-described region.

 Moreover, the region represented by an image 23 in the table includes three regions including: a region of
20 tangible fixed assets, previous period, and current period; a region of a machinery, previous period, and current period; and a region of buildings and structures, previous period, and current period. Therefore, when the image 23 disposed in the left upper
25 portion is clicked/operated, the client can similarly perform the movement, copy, or deletion concerning the three region.

Thereafter, in an image 26, a region of stock
issuance expenses, previous period, and current period
can be operated. In an image 25, a region of deferred
assets, previous period, and current period, a region
5 of a business commencement, previous period, and
current period, and a region of the stock issuance
expenses, previous period, and current period can be
operated.

Moreover, in an image 21, 16 items including a
10 region of current assets, previous period, and current
period to the region of the stock issuance expenses,
previous period, and current period in the table can be
operated.

A case will next be illustrated/described in which
15 the row or column is inserted into the table prepared
by the document authoring system with reference to
FIGS. 11A, 11B. Table Example 3 prepared with the HTML
format data by the document authoring system is
displayed as shown in FIG. 11A. To insert one row in
20 Table Example 3, the image display symbol of row 30
displayed in a part into which the row is to be
inserted in Table Example 3 of FIG. 11B is clicked on
the browser, and a row 32 can be inserted as shown.

Moreover, to insert one column, for example, right
25 to "Machinery" column, an image display symbol 31
displayed in a part (previous column in this case) into
which the column is to be inserted in Table Example 3

is clicked on the browser, and a column 33 can newly be prepared and inserted as shown.

In this manner, on the browser, for the table prepared with the data in HTML format, the row or
5 column can freely be inserted as in table calculation software (e.g., "Excel" of Microsoft Co., Ltd.).

FIGS. 12A, 12B, 13A, 13B are explanatory views showing an example in which a plurality of cells are merged (combined/edited).

10 First as shown in FIG. 12A, a cell 40 as a start point of a cell group to be merged and a cell 41 as an end point are designated, and four cells can be merged (combined/edited) as shown in FIG. 12B.

Moreover, as shown in FIG. 13A, a cell 42 as a
15 start point of columns to be merged and a cell 43 as an end point are designated, and four columns including eight cells can be merged (combined/edited) as shown in FIG. 13B.

As described above, for example, in a securities
20 transaction law in Japan, the electronic disclosure by the data of the HTML format is admitted. However, with the application of the embodiment of the present invention in which the data in HTML and XML formats are combined, while the display of the data in HTML format
25 to be filed is confirmed, the preparation operation can be performed.

Moreover, in the present embodiment, since the

data is held in XML format, it is possible to create the meaning of the data, and the consistency check among the data is possible. For example, a core of the financial data related disclosure document is
5 constituted by financial statements, and financial statement data is cited in any part of the disclosure document. When a definition document of mutually associated XML format data including financial statements data is prepared beforehand, the consistency
10 among the specific data can be checked.

Furthermore, for example, the core of a financial related disclosure document is constituted of financial statements, but the financial statements are prepared following the same rule in the securities transaction
15 law and a disclosure system of a brief note in Japan. The preparation timing of the brief note is earlier, and therefore the financial statements data input to the brief note is preferably transferred to the financial report or semiannual report as such.

20 In the present invention, this format is realized by the combination of the HTML and XML formats. Moreover, as an incidental effect, the problem of the consistency among the prepared disclosure documents can also be solved.

25 Moreover, the browser is used as on-line "data sharing input means", and thereby the user (client) which can access the Internet 10 can access the data

from anywhere.

Many parties concerned such as disclosure document
filing company, audit corporation (certified public
accountant), and printing company are usually engaged
5 in the preparing of an account settlement disclosure
document. However, when the Internet 10 is used,
newest data can be accessed from anywhere anytime, and
labor for preparing the disclosure document can largely
be saved.

10 Furthermore, the XML data on the server 12 is
edited with HTML on the browser of the client terminals
14, 16, 18, 20, and the edited result is returned to
the server 12 again. In this case, a number which can
uniquely be identified is granted to an element as a
15 processing object in the HTML data transmitted to the
browser of the client terminals 14, 16, 18, 20 from the
server 12. It is to be noted that in the display on
the browser, the number is displayed as the image
display symbol. The client who uses the client
20 terminal 14, 16, 18, or 20 designates the above-
described image display symbol to designate the
processing object.

Moreover, for the transmission to the server 12
from the client terminals 14, 16, 18, 20, only the
25 changed processing object is transmitted, and a data
transmission amount can be reduced.

Furthermore, for the input, display attribute, and

addition/deletion with respect to one element, four modes of "view", "input", "format setting", and "addition/deletion" are included in so-called "each data", and thereby the input field and image display symbol are set with respect to the element selectable in each mode. By this processing, it is possible to control the number of image display symbols displayed in one screen. As a result, a screen which can easily be understood by the client can be constituted.

Additionally, to store the screen position at a mode change time, when the mode is changed for the scrolled screen being displayed, a new page is sent from the server 12, and therefore the top of the page is constantly displayed. Therefore, even when the mode is changed, the presently displayed screen is displayed as such. Therefore, at an execution time of the mode change, the position of the page being displayed is recorded, transferred to the server 12, and scrolled into the same position at the next page display time.

Thereby, the client does not have to click the mouse (not shown) to grasp the present position. Even when the mode is changed and a new page is sent from the server 12, the same screen display position can be secured.

Furthermore, to clarify the parts of the editing, attribute change, and addition/deletion, the input is made in the browser. When the server 12 returns

a response, the top of the page is displayed.
Therefore, an excess operation is necessary for
returning a page which has heretofore been required to
be scrolled to the input part. Moreover, labor and
5 time have heretofore been required for searching for
the part to be changed. However, in the present
invention, the background of the changed item is
changed with a timer, the changed part information is
transferred from the server 12, and the part is moved
10 to the corresponding part at page display time.
Thereby, the screen is scrolled to a position in which
the changed item is displayed, the changed part is
displayed in a blinking manner, and the client
therefore easily grasps the changed part.

15 As described above, in the document authoring
system according to the present invention (i.e., the
whole document authoring apparatus and method), a large
number of parties concerned share a one-dimensionally
managed master file via the Internet, browse the
20 desired document for filing (e.g., in HTML format),
access the master file itself, and can perform editing
operations such as new preparation/change/addition/
deletion of the document.

25 Furthermore, there is provided a function of
displaying guide information for a part being prepared,
such as the ground provision and similar preparation
example in a guidance manner during the editing such as

the preparation concerning the sentence in the document. Therefore, when the information is referred to, the editing operation becomes efficient. Moreover, it can automatically be verified whether or not the consistency is kept among the numeric values with respect to the major data of the document, and therefore inconsistency is hardly generated in the whole document.

It is to be noted that as a matter of course a security countermeasure against improper access or data update is appropriately taken.

The embodiment has been described above, and a plurality of modification examples of this embodiment will next be described.

In the above embodiment, the document authoring system has been described in terms of an example of the document for EDINET filing (published document) requested to be prepared by the public company. Additionally, the document authoring system of the present invention may be applied to the following documents as the object to be handled, and can be modified/carried out as follows.

Examples of the document which can be handled include a name card, accounting slip, business form, account settlement advertisement, bill, entry papers, article (newspaper), book draft, magazine draft, and various application forms and notifications related

with an electronic government.

(Modification Example 1)

For example, the present invention may also be modified/carried out as follows, and an effect equal to
5 that of the above-described embodiment can be expected. That is, the present invention can be applied as a system in which "newspaper, book, and magazine" are prepared and edited in the constitution shown in FIG. 14 in the same manner as in the above-described
10 "financial data related document authoring system".

Authors A/B/C together with an editor D are making preparations for authoring a book (not shown). The authors A/B/C and editor D use the terminal devices 20, 18, 16, 14 connected to the Internet 10, and access the
15 draft of a book E on the publishing company server 12. Each of the terminal devices 20, 18, 16, 14 of the authors A/B/C and editor D include the browser as browsing software of the Internet 10.

Therefore, the authors A/B/C and editor D can use
20 the system of the present invention to perform a cooperative preparation/editing operation of the draft regardless of word processor software.

When the authors A/B/C and editor D log into this document authoring system from each terminal and
25 designate the "draft" as the editing object, the screen is displayed as shown in FIGS. 15A, 15B. The authors A/B/C and editor D call the editing screen through the

Internet 10, designate the list of contents (Chapter 2 Regarding Financial Statements) displayed on the left side of the screen, and call the document as the editing object. Since the document is first displayed
5 as shown by FIG. 15A, the editing operation can be performed with respect to this draft part.

The processing in the browser which only has the browsing function has been essentially performed as described above. However, when the document authoring
10 system of the present invention is used, it is possible to freely edit the draft displayed in the browser and change the layout.

FIG. 15A shows a "view" mode in the document authoring system. In the same manner as in the above-described "financial data related document authoring
15 system", the editing screen includes the mode displayed in a screen upper part. When the image display symbol of the screen upper part is clicked, the "view" mode can be changed as follows.

FIG. 15B shows a screen layout in which the mode
20 is changed to the "input" mode. When the mode is changed in the same manner as in the "financial data related document authoring system", clickable data is sent from the server 12, and all text/numeric value
25 data can be clicked in this state.

For example, when the first sentence starting with "Financial statements ..." is clicked in the input mode

of FIG. 15B, the sub window is started, and an editable state is obtained as shown in FIG. 16A.

Similarly, all the text and numeric values can be edited.

5 It is to be noted that the basic mechanism is the same as the above-described "financial data related document authoring system" of the embodiment, and the layout is changed in an "addition/deletion" mode.

10 When the "addition/deletion" button is further clicked, the screen of FIG. 16B of Modification Example 1 is displayed.

15 Different from the above-described "input" mode shown in FIGS. 6A, 6B, an orange image display symbol is displayed in data of a table format (balance sheet in this case) in the "addition/deletion" mode.

20 In the same manner as in the "financial data related document authoring system" of the above-described embodiment, the author A/B/C or editor D can click this orange-colored image display symbol in this example to perform the copy/deletion/movement of the table such as the designated balance sheet.

The following effect is obtained according to Modification Example 1.

25 1. Since the author and editor can constantly proceed with the operation referring to the same draft in real time, the communication between the author and editor becomes smooth.

2. Since there is always one original draft, the mix-up of the draft does not occur.

3. Since the authors can browse mutual burden shares, terms and expressions are easily unified.

5 4. Since the prepared draft has the XML format, the conversion into various formats (HTML, PDF) is easily performed using XSLT. Therefore, simultaneously with the output onto paper, the publishing (DTP, etc.) can easily be performed on the Internet 10.

10 Therefore, according to Modification Example 1, the effect equal to or more than that of the above-described embodiment can be anticipated.

(Modification Example 2)

15 Moreover, the present invention can similarly be modified and applied also to the following "business form". Furthermore, the effect equivalent to that of the above-described embodiment can be anticipated.

20 Here, the "business form" indicates documents which have standard formats for use in business, such as an estimate, invoice, bill, and receipt.

It will be illustrated that the present modification example is also effective for preparing this business form block copy.

25 According to FIG. 17, the printing company and designer A use the document authoring system of the present invention, and designs the business form block copy of the bill, and the like in response to a request

of requester B. The terminal devices 14, 20 of designer A and requester B include the browser as the browsing software for the Internet 10.

5 Designer A and requester B can use this document authoring system to perform the cooperative preparation/editing operation of the business form block copy regardless of the word processor software. For details, designer A first uses the terminal device 14 connected to the Internet 10 to access the business
10 form block copy on the publishing company server 12.

The terminal device 14 or 20 logs into the document authoring system, and designates "draft preparation". Then, a screen is displayed as shown in FIG. 18A. Designer A calls the editing screen via the
15 Internet 10, designates the list of contents displayed on the left side of the screen, calls the draft as the editing object, and can perform the editing operation.

For each list of contents, a standard business form example (estimate example) has already been
20 prepared, and designer A presents these samples to requester B via the browser, and can proceed with the operation.

The screen shown in FIG. 18A is in the "view" mode in this system, and a mode in which this editing screen
25 is displayed in the screen upper part is disposed in the same manner as in the "financial data related document authoring system". This "view" mode of

FIG. 18A can be changed to another mode, when the button in the screen upper part is clicked.

FIG. 18B shows a screen whose mode is changed to the "input" mode. When the mode is changed in the same manner as in the "financial data related document
5 authoring system", the clickable data is sent from the server 12. Therefore, all the text/numeric value data can be clicked in this state.

For example, when a sentence starting with "Our
10 estimation..." is clicked in the "input" mode of FIG. 18B, the sub window is started, and an editable state is obtained as shown in FIG. 18B. All the text/numeric value can similarly be edited.

This basic mechanism is the same as the "financial
15 data related document authoring system". For example, the text editing dialog is displayed in the sub window of FIG. 19A, and the desired text editing is possible.

Moreover, the layout is changed in the "addition/deletion" mode. For details, when the
20 "addition/deletion" button is clicked, a screen of FIG. 19B is displayed.

Different from the input mode of FIG. 18B, the orange-colored image display symbol is displayed in the data of the table format (the balance sheet in this
25 case) in the "addition/deletion" mode. The designer A clicks the orange-colored image display symbol and can copy/delete/move the designated table in the same

manner as in the above-described "financial data related document authoring system".

The following effects are obtained according to Modification Example 2.

5 1. Since the designer A and requester B can constantly proceed with the operation referring to the same draft in real time, the communication between the designer A and the editor of the printing company becomes smooth.

10 2. The designer A can perform the operation without selecting the place as long as the environment can be connected to the Internet 10.

3. Since there is always one original block copy, the mix-up of the block copy does not occur.

15 4. Since the prepared block copy has the XML format, the conversion into various formats (HTML, PDF) is easily performed using XSLT. Therefore, simultaneously with the output onto paper, the publishing can easily be performed on the Internet 10.

20 (Other Modification Examples)

 Additionally, for example, for the XML conversion program with style definition, a CSS relating to the conversion and display is disposed as first conversion means, and XSLT, an XML parser, and DOM are disposed as
25 second conversion means. When the present invention is modified/carried out in this manner, the display accompanying mutual communication between the terminal

device and server may also be possible.

It is to be noted that in the document authoring system of the present invention, the present invention can also be modified/carried out not only for the XML
5 for current use in the Internet field but also for description languages derived from this format, such as XHTML and XBRL.

Additionally, the present invention can variously be modified/carried out without departing from the
10 scope.

Finally, the items achieved by the system of the present invention are arranged as follows.

The data on the browser is synchronized with the data of the server by the identification number.
15 The identification number is replaced/represented with the image display symbol (or hyperlink) which differs with the type of data.

As a result, when the client merely operates the easy-to-understand image display symbol, it is possible
20 to substantially freely process the XML data on the server. That is, it is possible to easily move/delete/copy the object selected on the browser by a "man/machine interface" which can easily be understood visually and instinctively.

25 That is, when the document authoring system according to the present invention is used, the client visually confirms the document, for example, having

the EDINET filing format in the screen, shares the data concerning the document among the parties concerned via the Internet 10, and can prepare the document with a simple operation. Moreover, it is also possible to
5 publish the document.

At this time, in the document authoring system, to edit the associated data based on the request from the client terminals 14, 16, 18, 20, the client is not aware of a different in the data format to be handled
10 (XML or HTML format), and the speedy and accurate preparation/editing operation via the Internet 10 is easily realized with an enhanced efficiency.

As described above, according to the present invention, there can be provided the document authoring
15 system and authoring management program in which the filing documents such as the disclosure document can easily be prepared using the browser and can be accessed on Web page.

Additional advantages and modifications will
20 readily occur to those skilled in the art. Therefore, the invention in its broader aspects is not limited to the specific details and representative embodiments shown and described herein. Accordingly, various modifications may be made without departing from the
25 spirit or scope of the general invention concept as defined by the appended claims and their equivalents.